

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 3-7 are amended and new claims 9-18 are added. No new matter has been added. For example, the independent claims are supported, by Figs. 5A and 5B and corresponding passages in the specification.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Caley at the interview held August 31, 2005, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

I. Objection to the Claims

The Office Action objects to claims 4 and 5 based on minor informalities. Claims 4 and 5 are amended to obviate the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 4 and 5 are respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3-5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Ogishima (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0149728); rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ogishima in view of Chen (U.S. Patent No. 6,806,929); and rejects claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ogishima in view of Jisaki (U.S. Patent No. 6,753,939). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Regarding independent claim 1, none of the references disclose or suggest alignment controlling elements each having a linear portion that extends across one dot region.

As disclosed in Ogishima, for example, Figs. 18A and 18B, the protrusions 216 and 226 are circular. Therefore, Ogishima does not disclose or suggest the above noted features of independent claim 1.

Further, as discussed during the personal interview, nowhere does Ogishima disclose or suggest a distance between adjacent two of the alignment controlling elements arranged in

the reflective display region being smaller than the distance between adjacent two of the alignment controlling elements arranged in the transmissive display region, as recited in newly added independent claim 10.

None of the other references compensate for the above noted deficiencies of Ogishima.

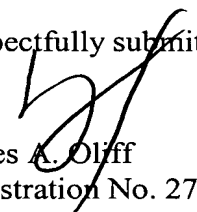
Therefore, independent claims 1 and 10 define patentable subject matter. Claims 2-9 and 11-18 depend from the respective independent claims, and therefore also define patentable subject matter as well as for the other features they recite. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-18 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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